

The Chairman's Corner- October - 2005

Dear Fellow Members and Associates:

As we turn into the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of this year, I'm sure we all agree, 2005 has been an extraordinary and memorable year.

In January, as we were still assisting the Tsunami victims, little did we realize that nature was prepping herself for one of the greatest natural disasters to hit our United States. If that didn't get our attention, right behind hurricane Katrina, her sister Rita slammed into the lower gulf coast of our nation.

Dismissing all the political fervor, it has been an amazing experience watching, learning, listening, and participating with the extraordinary relief efforts for those tragic events. I commend those of you for your participation in the many fund raising ceremonies that took place.

Through these horrendous catastrophes, there came to light a bit of irony for us living in Southern California, otherwise known as Earthquake-Ville.

Because of our environmental makeup, Southern California has been recognized as one of the most prepared states within our nation. However, in the wake of hurricane Katrina, and the effort to evacuate parts of Texas, we have ascertained maybe we are not as prepared as we thought we were. Now they're making suggestions such as increasing our provisions from three days to five.

I'm sure you're in agreement with me that what has happened was a big wake up call for all of us! We, as a community need to start planning so we can be prepared to respond promptly and properly without hesitation. I ask you, are you and your family prepared?

Remember last year when we were alerted there was not enough of the flu vaccine for everyone? On October 5<sup>th</sup>, I attended the LA Department of Health Services tabletop exercise.

During the exercise, the Director of the Department stated that in the event of a chemical attack, the Post Office has been appointed to distribute the vaccine to entire LA County within 24 hours!

As we were participating in the exercise, I asked the Director why we could not have the vaccine pre-paced and pre-distributed. Perhaps even offer it for public sale? He thought that was a good idea!

My personal concerns are; does our community really have a plan and trained personnel to implement it? When a disaster befalls us, do we have a plan for communications, transportation, personnel, and security? We're told there is a plan in place. I sincerely hope it's more appropriate than the plan our Government tried to implement in the Katrina disaster.

**San Fernando Valley Law Enforcement and Private Security Appreciation Day:**

For those of you who attended our September Law Enforcement and Private Security Appreciation luncheon well, I don't have to tell you how well it turned out!

It was one of the largest meetings in the twenty-five year history of our Chapter!

This was a tremendous and concerted effort and what I emphatically call TEAMWORK!

The planning and implementation was harmonious. Our volunteers ranged from the Board, general membership and even friends and family members. This was a collaborative effort by so many people that put this great event together. I salute all of you, and thank you for your time and effort.

Please, don't forget our November meeting! Schedule to visit us is our new BSIS Chief Paul Johnson, who will discuss with us the latest events within the Bureau and how he plans to take the baton from Steve Giorgi and run with it.

Finally, November is our annual election time. We need to elect the new Officers for the Chapter therefore, please nominate someone who you believe will continue to raise the bar of this excellent chapter.

Don't be shy, you can volunteer yourself so, step up and get involved.

Thank you everyone!

Sincerely,

*Mike M. Piroujian*  
Chapter Chairman